

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Confirmation No.: <i>To Be Assigned</i>
Hideaki OKADA	Art Unit: <i>To Be Assigned</i>
Appl. No.: <i>To Be Assigned</i>	Examiner: <i>To Be Assigned</i>
Filed: HEREWITH (February 10, 2004)	Atty. Docket: 0666.2180000/TGD/MJM
For: Differential Assembly and Transaxle Including It	

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicant has listed publication dates on the attached PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent

application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicant has checked the appropriate boxes below.

- 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
 - 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
 - 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
- a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first

cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:

a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
7. Copies of the documents are submitted herewith.
8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

Hideaki OKADA
Appl. No. *To Be Assigned*

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,831

Date: February 10, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete If Known <i>Application Number</i> To Be Assigned <i>Filing Date</i> HEREWITH (February 10, 2004) <i>First Named Inventor</i> Hideaki OKADA <i>Art Unit</i> To Be Assigned <i>Examiner Name</i> To Be Assigned <i>Attorney Docket Number</i> 0666.2180000/TGD/MJM		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				
Sheet	1	of	1	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (in known)				
	FPD1	JP 02-225843	09-07-1990	Junzo KIMURA		
	FPD2	JP 10-115360	05-06-1998	Shinichiro NAKAJIMA		
	FPD3	JP 05-079544	03-30-1993	Hideao OKADA		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M PEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ²Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.
⁴Examiner who issued the document by the two letter code (MIPC Standard ST 3). ⁵For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the

³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Transaction is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				<i>Complete If Known</i>	
				<i>To Be Assigned</i>	<i>Application Number</i>
				HEREWITH (February 10, 2004)	<i>Filing Date</i>
				Hideaki OKADA	<i>First Named Inventor</i>
				<i>To Be Assigned</i>	<i>Art Unit</i>
				<i>To Be Assigned</i>	<i>Examiner Name</i>
Sheet	1	of	1	<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	0666.2180000/TGD/MJM
(Use as many sheets as necessary)					
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT					

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature _____ **Date Considered** _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M PEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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